

Christian Book Tips

Book Tips:

The following book tips are there to help you navigate the many sources that are out there. All resources in this list are Bible-based, Christ-centred and are intended to help you grow in your walk of faith with Jesus Christ.

The annotations are there to assist you in considering whether to buy or borrow a resource. The genre covered are Biblical Studies (BS), Christian Apologetics (CA), Christian Biography (CB), Christian Living (CL), Church History (CH), Systematic Theology (ST) and Theology (T).

The reading levels are Beginner (B), Intermediate (INT) and Advanced (A). Sometimes a resource may be somewhere in-between, such as B/INT.

May God bless you and keep you.
Yours In Christ,
Pastor John

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Book Tips (sorted A-Z)

Agan, Jimmy. *Luke: A 12-Week Study*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2015.

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: IVP Academic, 2000.

Anderson, Neil T. *The Bondage Breaker*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2019.

Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet & Peasant; and, Through Peasant Eyes: a Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983.

Bartholomew, Craig G., Daniel J. Treier, Kevin Jon Vanhoozer, and Nicholas Thomas Wright. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Bavinck, Herman, and John Bolt. 2011. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Ada, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

- Beale, G. K. with David H. Campbell. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015.
- Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Bingham, D. Jeffrey. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2nd ed., rev. and expanded ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN.: B & H Academic, 2009.
- Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. Bala Cynwyd, PA: Ichthus Publications, 2019.
- Bock, Darrell L. *A Theology of Luke and Acts: God's Promised Program, Realized for All Nations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2012.
- Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo*. London, UK: University of California Press, 2000.
- Carson, D. A., Moo, D. and Naselli, Andrew (ed.). *Introducing the New Testament - A Short Guide to its History and Message*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Carson, D. A. *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and His Confrontation with the World: A Study of Matthew 5-10*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2018.
- Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., and G. J. Wenham, eds. *New Bible Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.
- Carson, D. A. *New Testament Commentary Survey (7th Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: 2013.
- Carson, D. A. ed. *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.
- Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John. Pillar New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centred Sermons*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013
- Cloud, Henry and John Sims Townsend. *Boundaries: When to say Yes, How to say No and take Control of Your Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Cloud, Henry and John Sims Townsend. *Safe People: How to Find Relationships That Are Good for You and Avoid Those That Aren't*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- Dallimore, Arnold A. *Spurgeon - A Biography*. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2021.

Douglas, J. D., Merrill C. Tenney, and Moisés. Silva. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. [Rev. ed.]. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Duriez, Colin. *Francis Schaeffer - An Authentic Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays, eds. *The Baker Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020.

Enns, Paul P. *The Moody Handbook of Theology: Revised and Expanded*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Erickson, Millard J. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.

Evans, John F. *A Guide to Biblical Commentaries and Reference Works (10th Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: 2016.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas K. Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Volume One (Second Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Freeman, Philip. *St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 2005.

Gardner, Paul. *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Characters: The Complete Who's Who in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Godfrey, W. Robert. *John Calvin - Pilgrim and Pastor*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Groothuis, Douglas R. *Christian Apologetics: A comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. [2nd ed.]. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022.

Grudem, Wayne, ed. *ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5th edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Habermas, Gary R., and Mike Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.

Hunter, Drew. *Matthew: A 12-Week Study*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2014.

James III, Frank A. and John D. Woodbridge. *Church History (Volume 2)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2013.

Jobes, Karen. *Letters to the Church - A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis - A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016.

Klein, William W., et al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.

Kreeft, Peter and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Pocket Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Longman III, Tremper. *Introducing the Old Testament - A Short Guide to Its History and Message*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Longman, Tremper, David E. Garland, D. A. Carson, Walter W. Wessel, and Mark L. Strauss. *Matthew & Mark*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Marsden, George. *Jonathan Edwards - A Life*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

Marty, Martin. *Martin Luther*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2008.

Moo, Douglas J. *A Theology of Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.

Nelson's Complete Book Of Bible Maps And Charts, 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2010.

Nelson, Thomas. *NIV Chronological Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

Norton, David. *The King James Bible: A Short History From Tyndale to Today*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Packer, J. I. *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993.

Pate, C. Marvin. *The Writings of John: A Survey of the Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Polhill, John B. *Acts*. The New American Commentary: Volume 26. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1992.

Potter, G. R. *Zwingli*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible. Revised Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.

Sproul, R. C. *Chosen by God*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1986.

Sproul, R. C. *Everyone's A Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2014.

Sproul, R. C. *Hard Sayings*. Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2023.

Sproul, R. C. *Knowing Scripture (Expanded Edition)*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016.

Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2000.

Sproul, R. C. *The Holiness of God*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1998.

Sproul, R. C. *What is Reformed Theology?: Understanding the Basics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.

Sproul, R. C. *Willing to Believe*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Stanley, Charles F. *Charles Stanley's Handbook for Christian Living: Biblical Answers to Life's Tough Questions*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

Stanley, Charles F. *Every Day in His Presence*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

Stanley, Charles F. *Experiencing Forgiveness (Life Principles Study Series)*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

Stanley, Charles F. *How to Listen to God*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985.

Stanley, Charles F. *Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005.

Stanley, Charles F. *Jesus, Our Perfect Hope*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2018.

Stanley, Charles F. *Prayer: The Ultimate Conversation*. New York, NY: Howard Books, New York, 2013.

Stanley, Charles F. *Rebuild: Forming a Life of Sustaining Faith and Intimacy With God*. Intouch Ministries.

Available at:

https://store.intouch.org/purchase/rebuild-workbook&ved=2ahUKEwjzy6LSqYiOAxUUEFkFHaktGw0QFnoECDEQAAQ&usg=AOvVaw0nx_6PW3k8Hb1PqiT3-QsX

Stanley, Charles F. *The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

Stanley, Charles F. *Trusting God With Today (365 Devotions)*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2023.

Steele, David N., Curtis C. Thomas, and S. Lance Quinn. *The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2004.

Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. The New American Commentary: Volume 24. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1992.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus, 2nd Edition: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Toon, Peter. *God's Statesman - The Life and Work of John Owen*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1973.

Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical & Theological study*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Walton, John H and Andrew Hill. *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey From Text to Translation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.

Weinandy, Thomas G. *Athanasius - A Theological Introduction*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2018.

Book Tips (sorted A-Z with annotations)

Agan, Jimmy. *Luke: A 12-Week Study*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2015.

12-week Bible study about the Gospel of Luke.

From the 'knowing the Bible' story series (available as free version at:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-series/>

Locates the place of a Bible passage, addresses the Big picture, offers reflection and discussion questions, Gospel glimpses, whole-Bible connections, theological aspects and personal implications.

Good definitions of biblical and theological terms.

Well-suited for group Bible study and individual study.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: B.

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: IVP Academic, 2000.

Bible-based and Christ-centred dictionary on biblical theology.

Separated into three parts.

Part one covers Bible theology and all related aspects to it (e.g. history of biblical theology, exegesis/hermeneutics, how the New Testament relates to the Old Testament, systematic theology and preaching).

Part two deals with all the individual books of the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) with useful articles on individual books.

Part three, covers the major biblical themes of Scripture.

No Scripture index.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies/Theology.

Reading Level: INT.

Anderson, Neil T. *The Bondage Breaker*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2019.

Addresses the nature of Spiritual warfare that Christians face.

Focuses on claiming our identity in Christ.

Many effective reflection tools to help overcome sin, evil, Satan, as well as destructive habits.

For individual use and group study.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet & Peasant; and, Through Peasant Eyes: a Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983.

A unique advanced study on the Parables in the Gospel of Luke.

This resource is two books combined into one.

A distinctive approach to understanding the parables, designed for more advanced students in Biblical studies and theology.

Helpful Scripture index.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Bartholomew, Craig G., Daniel J. Treier, Kevin Jon Vanhoozer, and Nicholas Thomas Wright. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Detailed dictionary that covers the theological interpretation of the Bible throughout the ages.

Easy to navigate, due to good layout, but the font size is relatively small.

Helpful subject and topical index.

For intermediate and advanced studies.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Bavinck, Herman, and John Bolt. 2011. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

One of the best Reformed systematic theologies currently available.

Abridged from an original multi-volume work.

Translated from Dutch to English with great care and precision.
Covers the core tenets of Reformed Christian faith into a dense and exact systematic theology.
Detailed footnotes on every page with further exploration and study.
Originally written over a century ago by Bavinck (1854-1921) this Bible-based, Christ-centered resource is still on par with contemporary theology.
Occasional notes are added by John Bolt to address some present-day issues.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Systematic Theology.
Reading Level: A

Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Ada, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

Excellent and extensive resource dealing with how the New Testament uses the Old Testament.
Covers every book of the New Testament in-depth.
Extensive bibliography after every chapter.
Extensive coverage of Scripture and other ancient writings, i.e. Old Testament, New Testament, DSS, Tosefta, Babylonian Talmud, Jerusalem Talmud, other rabbinic works, Old Testament pseudepigrapha, etc.)
For advanced biblical studies.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: A.

Beale, G. K. with David H. Campbell. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015.

Very helpful and truthful study on the Book of Revelation.
Good introduction to the book's 'redemptive-historical idealist' view.
Important summary of common points between the OT and the Book of Revelation.
This resource is an abbreviated version of a much larger study by Beale.
Excellent and easy to follow commentary part of every chapter in Revelation.
Big plus are the helpful evangelical reflection suggestions following every major segment dealt with.
Scripture index, but no bibliography.
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Extensive coverage of the locations, events and history of the Bible.
Contains detailed and accessible maps along with a helpful commentary.
Good Scripture index, good index for easy navigation.
Footnotes at the end are very small.
For the intermediate Bible student.

For a more introductory Bible atlas, consider: Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible. Revised Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Genre: Biblical studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Bingham, D. Jeffrey. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.

Compact overview of Christian church history.

Deals with the early church and church fathers, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and contemporary challenges in the church.

Chapter seven is noteworthy, since it deals with the so-called 'visible' and 'invisible' church, as we learn more about the doctrine of the church in the Reformation.

Helpful bibliography is well-arranged for those who want to dig deeper into church history.

Subject index and Scripture index.

Genre: Church History.

Reading Level: B.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2nd ed., rev. and expanded ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Among the very best resources available that deal with the interpretation of Jesus' parables.

Geared towards a more intermediate and advanced Bible student, this book investigates methods and controversies of interpretation, explores the meaning and significance of Christ's parables (covers all parables in the Gospels) and places the parables in a theological context.

Lots of good additional insight and resources in the extensive footnotes found on every page.

Name index and Scripture index included.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN.: B & H Academic, 2009.

One of the best evangelical resources on the Gospels.

Written with intermediate/advanced Bible students in mind, this book offers a historical background and critical methods for Gospel study, provides an introduction to all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), leading to a detailed survey of Jesus' life and ministry (also addressing the controversies of the so-called 'historical Jesus') and concludes with a synthesis of historical and theological aspects.

Individual chapters conclude with helpful recommendations for further study and review questions for study reflections.

Name index, subject index and Scripture index are excellent.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT/ADV.

Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. Bala Cynwyd, PA: Ichthus Publications, 2019.

Among the best resources that deal with the doctrine of predestination.

Held by Augustine, Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli, this doctrine is at the very heart of Reformed theology.

Written in a friendly, yet stern way, this book addresses the main issues and challenges that arise from the teaching on predestination (e.g. God's sovereignty, God's providence and His foreknowledge).

Firmly anchoring this doctrine in Scripture, the author also addresses common objections.

Very good analogies and helpful use of Bible proofs.

No Scripture index.

Highly recommend resource.

Genre: Theology.

Reading Level: INT.

Bock, Darrell L. *A Theology of Luke and Acts: God's Promised Program, Realized for All Nations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2012.

Solid resource that synthesizes the theology of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Provides an outline and narrative survey of Luke-Acts, isolates the main theological themes and explores Luke-Acts in the context of the biblical canon.

Layout and relatively short chapters make for accessible reading and study.

Extensive bibliography, Scripture and subject index.

Genre: Biblical Studies/Theology.

Reading Level: INT.

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo*. London, UK: University of California Press, 2000.

Among the best biographies on Augustine of Hippo (St. Augustine).

Large book (500+ pages) that covers the life, theology and times of Augustine.

Footnotes at bottom of the page.

Extensive biography for further study and compact subject index.

Genre: Christian Biography.

Reading Level: B.

Carson, D. A., Moo, D. and Naselli, Andrew (ed.). *Introducing the New Testament - A Short Guide to its History and Message*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Useful introductory guide to the New Testament by top-notch evangelical scholars.

Covers the main challenges of every New Testament book, as well as theological basics.

Very helpful discussion questions.

Good resource recommendations for further study.

Scripture index and subject index.

This short guide is an abbreviated version of another book by Carson and Moo "An introduction to New Testament" which may be of interest for advanced in-depth study.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Carson, D. A. *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and His Confrontation with the World: A Study of Matthew 5-10*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2018.

Very Helpful study of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' from an evangelical perspective. Cleans up many misperceptions and misinterpretations of Christ's major teaching. Contains two books by Carson into one, thereby providing a great commentary on Matthew 5-10.
Easy to read and follow along some more in-depth theological issues.
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., and G. J. Wenham, eds. *New Bible Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Whole Bible commentary with good introductions, accessible notes integrated into the body of the text.
Good font size and accessibility.
From leading evangelical scholars.
Suggestions for further study.
No Scripture index.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Carson, D. A. *New Testament Commentary Survey (7th Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: 2013.

Useful resource to help navigate New Testament commentaries.
Easy to follow language and a good overview of what is out there: the commentaries that are helpful and those which are not.
'Best buy' recommendation at the back and name index.
Aimed at the intermediate Bible student.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Carson, D. A. ed. *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

Top choice for intermediate Bible study.
Contains maps, charts and illustrations that bring the Bible to life.
Covers the Old Testament and New Testament.
The font size of the print, especially in the notes is very small.
Helpful commentaries by leading biblical scholars.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John. Pillar New Testament Commentary.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Among the best commentaries of John currently available.

The author covers a wide range of issues in scholarships and addresses the major challenges and debates.

Helpful layout and readable font, as well as footnotes at bottom of each page make for good reading.

No illustrations or charts.

Index of modern authors and index of biblical references.

For intermediate and advanced students.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT/ADV.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

First-choice resource for anyone who wants to get a better understanding of preaching (homiletics).

Explores principles for expository preaching, how to prepare expository sermons and maintaining Christ-centered theology.

(Note: Expository preaching refers to a preacher explaining the meaning of a Bible passage and providing the practical application).

Helpful illustrations, tables and content summaries of every chapter.

A big plus are the extensive footnotes, which provide many helpful tips (what to do and not to do).

Extensive bibliography and detailed subject index.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies (Homiletics).

Reading Level: INT.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centred Sermons.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013

Companion book to 'Christ-centred Reading' (by same author).

Good samples of Bible-based, Christ-centred sermons, along with explanations.

Covers both expository and topical sermons.

Lots of footnotes at bottom of pages, provide additional tips and resources.

General subject index and Scripture index.

Genre: Biblical Studies (homiletics).

Reading Level: INT.

Cloud, Henry and John Sims Townsend. *Boundaries: When to say Yes, How to say No and take Control of Your Life.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

Bible-based, Christ-centered resource that helps us gain a better understanding of the nature and purpose of God-given boundaries.

Learn more about what boundaries are, what constitutes boundary conflicts and how to develop healthy boundaries.

Scripture verses are applied well to the topic at hand.

Short to medium chapter length.

Very practical book that applies to many life situations.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Cloud, Henry and John Sims Townsend. *Safe People: How to Find Relationships That Are Good*

for You and Avoid Those That Aren't. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Recommended resource for understanding the nature of relationships, those which are healthy and those which are not.

Geared towards anyone who has experienced unhelpful, abusive and other detrimental relationships.

Short chapters and occasional bullet point layout, make for easy reading.

A helpful resource for individual use and suited for Christian counselling.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Dallimore, Arnold A. *Spurgeon - A Biography.* Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2021.

Among the best biographies about C.H. Spurgeon currently available.

Covers the life, times and many challenges Spurgeon (1834-92) faced in Victorian England.

Short chapters make for accessible and good reading.

Annotated bibliography of Spurgeon's works is a plus.

Contains a brief general index.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Biography.

Reading Level: B.

Douglas, J. D., Merrill C. Tenney, and Moisés. Silva. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary.* [Rev. ed.]. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2011.

Among the best Bible dictionaries available.

Covers almost every person, theme and topic in the Bible.

Maps and images make for a good reading experience.

Designed for intermediate in-depth Bible studies.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Duriez, Colin. *Francis Schaeffer - An Authentic Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

An extensive biography on Francis Schaeffer.
Covers his personal struggles and disputes with others.
Contains a retrospective interview with Schaeffer, September 30, 1980.
Vast bibliography and good subject index.
Genre: Christian Biography.
Reading Level: B.

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays, eds. *The Baker Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020.

Beautifully organized and illustrated book that provides insight into the society, culture and history of biblical times.
Timelines, maps and images make for user-friendly reading and navigation.
Good culturally specific commentary on all Bible books.
Introductory articles on OT and NT by leading scholars are a plus.
Detailed endnotes.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Enns, Paul P. *The Moody Handbook of Theology: Revised and Expanded*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Very helpful resource that covers many facets of theology.
Good all-round coverage of topics: Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology and Contemporary Theology.
Accessible layout of chapters, with endnotes after every chapter.
Outstanding charts make this a good choice for intermediate Bible studies and theology.
Glossary, persons index, subject index and extensive Scripture index are a plus.
While designed for the intermediate Bible student, the easy language makes this book accessible to interested laypersons as well.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Systematic Theology/Theology.
Reading Level: INT.

Erickson, Millard J. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.

Concise and compact dictionary of Christian theology that covers a wide range of themes, topics and theologies into one handy book.
Very short entries make this a valuable source for the student beginning in biblical studies and theology.
Good layout and helpful cross-references.
Recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies/Theology.
Reading Level: B.

Evans, John F. *A Guide to Biblical Commentaries and Reference Works (10th Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: 2016.

Comprehensive resource to help navigate through the many commentaries and reference works on the Bible (covers both OT and NT).
Explores and critiques a wide variety of books, and points out the very best Bible-based and Christ-centered resources available.
Suggestions for building a solid library and an 'ultimate reference library' with different possible options.
This outstanding guide can help save a lot of time, money and energy.
Ideal for Bible students, pastors, theologians, but also helpful to interested laypeople.
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas K. Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

Helpful introductory resource that covers the basics of all 66 Bible books (Old Testament and New Testament).
Good overviews of every book and useful specific advice for reading every book.
A walkthrough of every book.
Compact, concise and easy language make for a good reading experience.
Excellent choice for introductory Bible study.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Volume One (Second Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Extensive coverage of Church history from the early church to the Pre-Reformation time.
Easy to navigate, good layout, good summaries at end of chapters.
Provides suggestions for further study.
Genre: Church History.
Reading Level: B.

Freeman, Philip. *St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 2005.

Factual biography of St. Patrick (c.390-460s AD).
Covers all that can be established about the life, times and history of Patrick.

While many 'biographies' about Patrick exaggerate or embellish things, this book focuses on the facts, yet doing so in a way that brings the person to life.

Kings, druids and virgins are put into proper perspective as we navigate through the many challenges Patrick faces.

Epilogue contains an English translation of Patrick's letters.

Suggested reading and subject index invite further exploration and study.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Biography.

Reading Level: B.

Gardner, Paul. *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Characters: The Complete Who's Who in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Good resource about every person named in the Bible.

Well-researched entries help navigate the people and events in the Bible, as well as their biblical and theological relevance.

For the beginning Bible student and more seasoned readers.

Easy to navigate layout.

No Scripture index.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: B.

Godfrey, W. Robert. *John Calvin - Pilgrim and Pastor*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Compact and easy-to-read biography on Calvin (1509-1564).

Deals with his life, writings, theology and struggles with other interest groups.

Helps us to better understand the Reformation as it took shape in Switzerland.

No maps, no illustrations, no timeline, but a well-rounded subject index.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Biography.

Reading Level: B.

Groothuis, Douglas R. *Christian Apologetics: A comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. [2nd ed.]. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022.

Intermediate resource on Christian Apologetics, following a 'cumulative-case approach' that covers the most important apologetic approaches.

Lots of good material and further reading in the footnotes.

Genre: Christian Apologetics.

Reading Level: INT.

An additional helpful resources is: Corduan, Winfried. *Pocket Guide to World Religions*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

Grudem, Wayne, ed. *ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

The ESV Study Bible offers a wealth of solid commentary, charts, maps, beautiful illustrations that can help anyone interested in further Bible study.
The articles at the end are a helpful asset.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.

This well-written systematic theology deals with all essential Christian doctrines. Medium-length chapters have an accessible layout to quickly navigate to specific topics. Questions for personal application, special terms and recorded bibliography for further study at end of every chapter.
Scripture memory passage and hymn as the chapters end are a nice touch.
Lots of additional material in the footnotes.
Appendix includes the historic confessions of faith (Creeds) and a superb annotated bibliography.
Glossary, subject index and practical Scripture index are an asset.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Systematic Theology.
Reading Level: INT.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5th edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

A good survey of the New Testament.
Provides a commentary on each NT book, with introduction, commentary, illustrations, maps and charts.
Subject index, but no Scripture index.
Helpful resources at end of each chapter for further investigation and study.
Borrowing it is best.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Habermas, Gary R., and Mike Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.

Very accessible resource about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Following a 'minimal facts' approach, this book addresses most of the common myths surrounding the resurrection of Christ.
Short chapters, many helpful illustrations make for easy reading.
Good appendix that summarizes the main points of every chapter.
The endnotes are helpful.
Subject index and bibliography at the end.
Genre: Christian Apologetics.
Reading Level: B.

Hunter, Drew. *Matthew: A 12-Week Study*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2014.

From the Knowing the Bible Study Series - with FREE resources at the Gospel coalition:
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-series/>

This 12 week Bible study on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) offers a solid Bible-based, Christ-centred exploration of the main biblical and theological aspects. Every part of this booklet locates the place of a Bible passage, addresses the big picture and encourages reflection and discussion.

Gospel glimpses, whole-Bible connections, theological concerns and personal implication make for an effective Bible study tool.

Best-suited for group study.

Recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical studies.

Reading Level: B.

James III, Frank A. and John D. Woodbridge. *Church History (Volume 2)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2013.

Very extensive and detailed coverage of church history from the Pre-reformation to the present day (1300-today).

This companion book to 'Church History, Vol. 1' is filled with details about the struggles Christianity has faced throughout the centuries.

At over 800 pages, the book covers the history of the Christian church in this time period, along with the many social, political and cultural challenges from within and without.

The language is straightforward.

Maps, charts and illustrations provide for hours of extensive reading.

Every chapter provides recommendations for further study.

General bibliography lists reference works and recommended reading to dig deeper.

Huge subject index.

Genre: Church History.

Reading Level: B/INT.

Jobes, Karen. *Letters to the Church - A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Top commentary on Hebrews and General Epistles of the New Testament.

Very easy to navigate, many charts, images, illustrations and maps.

Helpful glossary, Scripture index, subject index and index of scholarly authors.

For the starting Bible student.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: B.

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis - A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016.

Compact guide on how to plan and prepare theological research papers.

Easy to follow, read and navigate, due to short chapters.

Helps to steer through the entire process of theological research assignments.
Big plus is the appendix section, especially pointing out standard scholarly resources for theological research, and a suggested timeline to accomplish the task.
Short, but useful subject index.
Genre: Theology/Biblical studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Klein, William W., et al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.

Solid Bible-based, Christ-centered resource that covers almost every aspect of intermediate/advanced issues of the Bible interpretation (Hermeneutics).
Deals with why and how we interpret the Bible, the history of interpretation, different approaches to interpretation, the Bible canon and translations, presumptions of the interpreter, understanding biblical literature and poetry, Old Testament and New Testament genres and how to apply biblical truth.
Big plus is the annotated bibliography on hermeneutical tools.
Scripture index, subject index and author index.
Recommended source.
Genre: Biblical studies.
Reading Level: INT/ADV.

Kreeft, Peter and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Pocket Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Compact overview of the main elements of Christian Apologetics.
Deals with apologetic issues, such as the existence of God, creation and evolution, the divinity of Christ, the resurrection, the problem of evil, etc.
Very short chapters and useful subheadings make for accessible reading.
Works cited at end of book.
Genre: Christian Apologetics.
Reading Level: INT.

Longman III, Tremper. *Introducing the Old Testament - A Short Guide to Its History and Message*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Covers the main issues and considers the literary genre and connections of every New Testament book.
Helpful reflection questions for review and discussion.
Provides recommended resources for further study.
Scripture index included.
For individual and advanced group Bible study.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Longman, Tremper, David E. Garland, D. A. Carson, Walter W. Wessel, and Mark L. Strauss. *Matthew & Mark*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Recommended resource on the Gospel of Matthew for advanced students.
This book also has a top-notch commentary on Mark (a 'two-in-one' resource).
Extensive bibliography as part of the introduction is a big asset.
The commentary is very readable and the notes are integrated into every page (same font size).
Good outline and excellent commentary satisfy both the biblical studies student and theology student.
Among the best commentaries on Matthew currently available.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: A.

Note: this is an annotation about Mark (in the same book).
Two-in-one Bible commentary (on Matthew by D.A. Carson and Mark by Walter W. Wessel and Mark L. Strauss).
Both commentaries are among the very best currently available.
The commentary on Mark is extensive and the language is easy to read, yet the subject matter is intermediate to advanced.
Good font size.
Notes are integrated into the page flow.
For the intermediate and advanced reader.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Marsden, George. *Jonathan Edwards - A Life*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

Extensive biography about the life, times and theology of Jonathan Edwards.
In-depth chapters covering the life and struggles of this outstanding pastor and theologian.
Useful chronological tables, some illustrations and good subject index.
Endnotes at back encourage the reader for further study.
Genre: Christian Biography.
Reading Level: B/INT.

Marty, Martin. *Martin Luther*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2008.

One of the best biographies of Martin Luther (1483-1546) currently available.
Covers the main events of his life and times.
Provides a compact, yet concise insight into the life of this great Reformer, and does not shy away from the controversies surrounding Luther.
Two maps are included, but no illustrations.
Useful part on further reading about Luther, but no subject index.
Recommended Christian biography.
Genre: Christian Biography.
Reading Level: B.

Moo, Douglas J. *A Theology of Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.

Outstanding Bible-based, Christ-centered resource about the letters of Paul and the theology found within.

One part deals with the theology, yet at the same time can be used as a solid commentary on key passages and verses.

The other part offers a convincing syntheses of Paul's theology and does away with many falsehoods, misconceptions and misperceptions about God's Word, as is often done to Paul's writings (see 2 Peter 3:15-16).

Primarily aimed at the intermediate reader.

Extensive Scripture index and good subject index.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Nelson's Complete Book Of Bible Maps And Charts, 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2010.

A helpful introductory guide to all books of the Bible.

Concise introductory notes to every book with outlines, maps and charts.

Some theological considerations.

Easy to navigate, due to the layout.

For individual study and also suitable as sourcebook for small group Bible study.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading level: B.

Nelson, Thomas. *NIV Chronological Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

One-of-a-kind Study Bible that presents both Old Testament and New Testament in a suggested sequential arrangement.

Split up into nine epochs, this book provides a good deal of sound, cultural and historical insight.

Contains time charts, panels, maps and images.

Excellent glossary, concordance and Scripture index.

Daily reading plans at the end of the book.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: B.

Norton, David. *The King James Bible: A Short History From Tyndale to Today*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Learn more about the origins and development of the King James Bible (KJB) with the first edition printed in 1611.

Very detailed book, yet easy to read and follow along.

Aimed at the intermediate Bible student.

Many helpful footnotes for further study and research.

Contains some useful illustrations.
Select bibliography and subject index.
Genre: Biblical Studies/Christian History.
Reading Level: INT.

Packer, J. I. *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993.

Among the best compact Systematic Theologies available.
Very short segments provide for accessible reading.
Well-organized table of contents provides for quick reference to specific topics.
Every topic has a short title, concise summary of the title and matching Scripture verse.
General index and Scripture index are assets.
Genre: Systematic Theology.
Reading Level: B.

Pate, C. Marvin. *The Writings of John: A Survey of the Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Introductory textbook on the writings of the Apostle John (Gospel of John, letters of John - 1,2,3 and Revelation).
Good overview and survey of the biblical accounts and some theological considerations.
Images, illustrations, charts and maps make for joyful reading and study.
Extensive glossary, good Scripture index and subject index.
Borrowing this book is best.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Polhill, John B. *Acts*. The New American Commentary: Volume 26. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1992.

Recommended biblical commentary on Acts.
Easy to read and good footnotes.
Good Scripture index and some maps.
For the intermediate Bible student.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: INT.

Potter, G. R. *Zwingli*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Extensive biography of one of the major people in the Reformation.
Helpful insight into the life and challenges of Zwingli as he brings the Reformation to Switzerland.
Lots of theological and historical insight into the times of the Reformation.
Though very detailed and lengthy (at 400+ pages) the chapters are relatively short and compact.
Footnotes at bottom of page are small, but helpful for further study.

Good Scripture index at the end, but no bibliography.
Some maps are available in the book, for better navigation.
Genre: Christian Biography.
Reading Level: B.

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible. Revised Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Very good Bible Atlas aimed at readers at the introductory level.
Helpful commentaries, maps, charts and images bring the Bible to life.
Follow along the people in the Bible along their journeys and struggles.
Geographical dictionary and index are a big asset.
Scripture index.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.

A well-written theology of the New Testament.
Integrates biblical studies and theology well.
Short chapters and extensive footnotes.
For more intermediate and advanced students of theology.
Good extensive Scripture index.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Theology.
Reading Level: INT.

Sproul, R. C. *Chosen by God*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1986.

In-depth, yet accessible study of the Reformed doctrine of predestination.
Covers a wide variety of related theological aspects.
Useful summaries after every chapter as well as relevant Bible passages.
No Scripture index.
Very helpful are the chapters on 'Can we know that we are saved?' and the questions and objections at the end of the book.
Genre: Theological Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Sproul, R. C. *Everyone's A Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2014.

A very accessible book providing a good introduction to Reformed Systematic Theology.
Well-organized, short but concise chapters provide an enjoyable reading experience.
Appendix includes the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed and the Creed of Chalcedon.
Subject index and Scripture index are a plus.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Systematic Theology.

Reading Level: B.

Sproul, R. C. *Hard Sayings*. Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2023.

Outstanding resource for anyone who wants to understand the Bible and the many 'hard sayings' it contains.

Very short chapters and concise language, make for helpful reading.

Covers 'hard sayings' from both the Old Testament and New Testament.

No Scripture index.

Recommended Bible-based, Christ-centered book.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Sproul, R. C. *Knowing Scripture (Expanded Edition)*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016.

Accessible and easy to read resource about how to study the Bible.

Addresses many Issues of Bible study, such as why we should study the Bible, how to study the Bible (The science of interpretation, i.e. 'hermeneutics') and practical rules for proper Bible interpretation.

Big plus is the last chapter on helpful tools for Bible study.

Contains a short glossary.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: B/INT.

Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2000.

Useful resource to get a better understanding of philosophy, ideas and worldviews that impact our thinking.

Christians should be aware of the consequences of man-made ideas, as they contrast - often clash - with our biblical worldview.

Deals with the most influential thinkers throughout the ages, e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Darwin, etc.

Helpful illustrations and short chapters make for accessible reading.

Good selection on further reading about the philosophers covered.

Detailed Scripture index.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Apologetics.

Reading Level: B.

Sproul, R. C. *The Holiness of God*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1998.

This resource is helpful in gaining a better understanding of the holiness of God.

The book explains in short chapters what God's holiness is, and what it means for our relationship with Him as broken sinners.

Every chapter concludes with a few short reflection questions that encourage the reader to journal or participate in further discussion.
Designed for individual use and small group work.
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Biblical Studies/Christian Living.
Reading Level: B.

Sproul, R. C. *What is Reformed Theology?: Understanding the Basics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.

Covers the foundations of Reformed Theology.
Explains why God's Word (the Bible) is at the centre of Reformed doctrine, and how Jesus Christ is the sole focus of Christian Reformed teaching.
Helps to get a better understanding of the doctrine of predestination, along with the meaning and reasoning behind the Reformed precepts of 'TULIP' and God's covenants.
Accessible writing and short chapter, make for easy and enjoyable reading.
Endnotes, glossary of foreign terms, subject index, person index and Scripture index make this an effective book.
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Theology.
Reading Level: B.

Sproul, R. C. *Willing to Believe*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Outstanding resource about the role of the human will in salvation.
Helps the reader to reflect on the nature of original sin, how free will and determination fit together and how God's saving grace comes into the picture.
Deals with many difficult theological positions about the question of 'free will' in human beings (e.g. Pelagius, Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Arminius, etc.).
Illustrations and figures help navigate the book better.
Has detailed endnotes.
Contains Latin glossary, subject index, name index and Scripture index.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Theology.
Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Charles Stanley's Handbook for Christian Living: Biblical Answers to Life's Tough Questions*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

This book covers virtually all aspects of the Christian life.
It is Bible-based and Christ-centred, and covers a wide range of topics (i.e. church concerns, daily living, doctrine, end times, personal growth, relationships, service and outreach and spiritual disciplines).
All chapters are relatively short and the page layout make for easy navigation and easy reading.
Good subject index.
No Scripture index.

Suitable for individual study, small group study, and Christian counselling.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Note: another great similar resource, yet a bit more advanced, is Sproul, R.C. *Now, that's a good question!* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996.

Stanley, Charles F. *Every Day in His Presence*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

365 devotionals to help Christians grow in their walk of faith with Christ.

Very accessible layout.

Has a daily devotional title, Old Testament or New Testament Scripture passage, compact message, a prayer and a saying at the bottom.

For individual use and group devotional time.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Experiencing Forgiveness (Life Principles Study Series)*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

A ten-lesson study guide about forgiveness.

Covers a whole range of issues that deal with forgiveness, along with the meaning of unforgiveness.

With useful reflection questions.

Ideal for group study, yet also suited for individual reflection.

Genre: Christian living.

Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *How to Listen to God*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985.

A helpful little book to become better listeners as God speaks into our hearts.

Deals with many issues that may hinder our listening, along with suggestions on how to improve.

Short chapters and very readable language.

No Scripture index.

Best suited for individual use and personal reflection.

Genre: Christian Living

Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005.

Highly recommended resource to learn more about the Person and Power of the Holy Spirit.

Short chapters and easy to read overall.

Ideal for both individual use and group Bible Study.

Genre: Christian Living.
Reading Level: B

Stanley, Charles F. *Jesus, Our Perfect Hope*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2018.

Lovingly done 365-day devotional.
Every daily devotional has a helpful title, Bible passage, encouraging message, a short prayer and a saying that always begins with "My hope is in Jesus because..."
Bible-based, Christ-centered messages at the very best, encouraging and helping believers grow in their personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.
Recommended resource.
Genre: Christian Living
Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Prayer: The Ultimate Conversation*. New York, NY: Howard Books, New York, 2013.

Covers many aspects of prayer.
Why do we pray?
Why should we pray?
What does the Bible tell us and teach us about prayer?
Highly recommended resource.
Genre: Christian Living.
Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Rebuild: Forming a Life of Sustaining Faith and Intimacy With God*. Intouch Ministries.
Available at:
https://store.intouch.org/purchase/rebuild-workbook&ved=2ahUKEwjzy6LSqYiOAxUUEFkFHaktGw0QFnoECDEQAAQ&usg=AOvVaw0nx_6PW3k8Hb1PqiT3-QsX

12-week workbook to help people navigate the process of grieving and loss.
Easy to follow along.
Good layout.
Based on the writing of the Apostle Peter.
Recommended for anyone.
Genre: Christian Living.
Reading Level: B.

Another helpful related resource, both for individual and group use is: Guthrie, David and Nancy Guthrie. *Grief and Share: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy*. 2011.

Stanley, Charles F. *The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

Helpful and very practical resource.

Based on the “30 Life Principles’ of C.F. Stanley.

Easy to navigate.

Practical life lessons and bottom of almost every page.

Life examples of people in the Bible.

Answers to Life’s Questions and ‘What the Bible says about’ are practical easy to follow and applicable.

Outstanding concordance and a few maps at the end of the book.

Highly recommended resource.

Genre: Biblical Studies/Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Stanley, Charles F. *Trusting God With Today (365 Devotions)*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2023.

365-day devotional.

Easy to navigate, good layout.

Every daily devotional has a title, a Bible verse (from the Old Testament and New Testament), a Bible-based, Christ-centered message, followed by a short prayer.

Ideal for all people.

Genre: Christian Living.

Reading Level: B.

Steele, David N., Curtis C. Thomas, and S. Lance Quinn. *The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2004.

Covers the main parts of Calvinism.

Contains a detailed annotated bibliography.

Easy to read and follow along.

Genre: Theological Studies.

Reading Level: B

Note:

For another outstanding resource on ‘TULIP’ that is shorter and more compact: Spencer, Duane E. *Tulip*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1979.

For a more in-depth treatment on the extent of the atonement: Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1955.

Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. The New American Commentary: Volume 24. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1992.

Recommended commentary on the Gospel of Luke.

Useful outline of Luke’s Gospel, along with a detailed commentary covering the context and theology of each Bible passage segment.

Footnotes at bottom of every page.

Selected subject index, Bible scholars index, selected Scripture index and bibliography.

For a solid and detailed study of Luke.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus, 2nd Edition: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Good resource that covers all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

Useful maps and charts.

Easy to navigate layout.

Comes with chapter summaries, key terms, discussion and study questions and further Bible-based Christ-centered resources at the end of every chapter for digging deeper (a big plus).

No Scripture index.

Excellent glossary at the end.

Recommended resource for beginning Bible students.

Genre: Biblical studies.

Reading Level: B.

Toon, Peter. *God's Statesman - The Life and Work of John Owen*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1973.

Useful biography on John Owen that deals with both his life, times he lived in and his theology.

Contains a list of Owen's writings at the end.

Good subject index and chronological timeline.

For additional reading on his theology, covering his biblical response to Arminianism, look up John Owen's "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ" (initially published in 1647)

Genre: Christian Biography

Reading Level: B/INT.

Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical & Theological study*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

In-depth historical and theological study on the miracles of Jesus.

Covers the miracles of Jesus in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

Discusses the meaning of Christ's miracles and addresses past and present challenges to the authenticity of Jesus' miracles, posed by 'critics' of various stripes.

For the intermediate and even more advanced Bible student.

Genre: Biblical Studies.

Reading Level: INT.

Walton, John H and Andrew Hill. *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Good survey of the Old Testament.

Covers the background of every Old Testament book.

Comes with useful outlines, illustrations, charts and images.

Glossary at end, detailed subject index.
No Scripture index.
Written at an introductory level for Bible students.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B.

Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey From Text to Translation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.

Covers the original development of the Bible.
Insightful reading about many aspects of the Bible, the canon formation of the Bible, the transmission of the Bible and the development of English translations of the Bible.
Many helpful illustrations, maps, tables and images.
An excellent resource for anyone who wants to learn more about how the Bible came into being.
Good font size and print layout.
Extensive general topic index and Scripture index.
Genre: Biblical Studies.
Reading Level: B/INT.

Weinandy, Thomas G. Athanasius - *A Theological Introduction*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2018.

Advanced resource about the life and theology of Athanasius (c.296-373 AD), one of the main church fathers behind the creed of the Council of Nicea (325 AD).
The theological focus is on issues dealing with salvation, the Trinity and the Holy Spirit.
Very dense, yet compact reading, to learn more about the heretical challenges (e.g. Arianism) Athanasius faced, and how he addressed them.
For the advanced Bible or theology student.
Genre: Christian Biography/Theology.
Reading Level: A.

Please visit our website:

<https://biblebasedchristcentered.wordpress.com>

May God bless you and keep you.

Pastor John

Amen.